

HOUSE....

....No. 127.

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REPORT

ON THE SUBJECT OF

THE STATE CENSUS OF 1850,

BY THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS:

PRESENTED APRIL 7, 1849.



BOSTON:

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No. 37, Congress Street.

1849.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 23, 1849.

ORDERED, That Messrs. Shattuck, of Boston, Burbank, of Lowell, Cheney, of Holden, Sikes, of Ludlow, and Swasey, of Marblehead, be a Committee to inquire into the expediency of prescribing a plan for taking the State Census of 1850.

CHAS. W. STOREY, *Clerk.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 7, 1849.

The Committee who were directed to inquire into the expediency of prescribing a plan for taking the State census of 1850, have considered the same, and present the following

R E P O R T:

Two enumerations of the inhabitants of this Commonwealth are required to be made in 1850, one by the constitution of the United States, and another by the constitution of this State. And it is highly important that measures should be taken to unite the labors of those who shall be appointed by the United States, with those who shall be appointed by this State, to perform this duty, that such an enumeration may be made, as will be full, accurate, and most useful; or that this object shall be attained in one or the other of these enumerations. The committee deem it expedient, that the attention of the Legislature should be called to this matter, at this session, that ample time may be had, to mature wisely, and in due season, all necessary provisions of law, for the purpose of accomplishing all the important objects which can be secured by means of the census. Our attention has been particularly directed to a consideration of the following questions:—1. What information should be sought? and 2. How shall the information be obtained? Before proceeding, however, to state our views on these matters, we will briefly refer to the censuses hitherto taken.

An act of the Legislature was passed, March 21, 1837, providing for taking a census of the inhabitants of this State, for the purpose of ascertaining the proportion by which the surplus revenue of the United States should be distributed to the seve-

ral towns. And another act was passed, April 12th of that year, "to provide for taking a census of the ratable polls," for the purpose of making an apportionment of the representatives, in the several towns, according to the new provisions of the constitution then just adopted. A census was consequently taken, on the first day of May, in 1837. The constitution was again amended in 1839, and provided that "a census of the inhabitants of each city and town, on the first day of May, shall be taken and returned into the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on or before the last day of June, of the year one thousand eight hundred and forty, and of every tenth year thereafter, which census shall determine the apportionment of senators and representatives, for the term of ten years." An act was passed, March 21, 1840, "for taking a census of the inhabitants of this Commonwealth," for the purpose of making an apportionment of the senators and representatives, in the Legislature, according to this new provision of the constitution. The act of 1840 was nearly in the language of that of 1837, for taking a census of the ratable polls. The mere numbers of the inhabitants were the only facts required to be ascertained in both years. These acts provided that "the inmates of the State Prison, of the several hospitals, jails, and houses of correction, and the students in colleges, academies, and high schools, not belonging to the towns in which said colleges, academies, or high schools are located, and all State paupers, shall not be numbered in the census of said towns." This seems to the committee an improper provision. The same rule should be observed, in regard to the persons to be enumerated in the State census, as in the United States census. This rule is incorporated into the accompanying bill. The next State census must be taken in 1850, and may be done in such form as the State shall direct.

The constitution of the United States originally provided that "The actual enumeration [of the inhabitants] shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct," for the purpose of determining the number of representatives which each

State shall be entitled to send to Congress. And, by the act of March 1, 1790, the first enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States was taken that year. New acts have been passed, ordering new censuses every ten years since that time. The seventh national census is to be taken in 1850. The subject of this census was brought before the late Congress. The judiciary committee of the House of Representatives, in June last, reported a bill, substantially like the act of 1840. Mr. Dayton, of the Senate, about the same time, reported a resolve, appropriating \$700 for "a plan for taking the census." Mr. Cameron, also of the Senate, in January, this year, reported a bill, containing the outline of a plan. Other suggestions, in relation to the subject, were also made, but it seems no definite measures were matured. The following act was passed, on the last day of the session :—

AN ACT to make Arrangements for taking the Seventh Census.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, of the United States of America, in Congress Assembled, That the Secretary of State, the Attorney-general, and the Postmaster-general, shall constitute and be a board, to be styled the Census Board ; that it shall be the duty of the said board to prepare and cause to be printed, such forms and schedules, as may be necessary for the full enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States ; and also proper forms and schedules, for collecting in statistical tables, under proper heads, such information as to mines, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, education, and other topics, as will exhibit a full view of the pursuits, industry, education, resources of the country ; it being provided that the number of said inquiries, exclusive of the enumeration, shall not exceed one hundred, and that the expense incurred, in preparing and printing said forms and schedules, shall not exceed ten thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said board shall have power to appoint a secretary, whose remuneration shall be determined by Congress, upon the completion of the duties assigned to the board.

APPROVED, March 3, 1849.

By another act, passed the same day, "to establish the Home Department," it is provided, "that the Secretary of the Interior shall exercise all the supervisory and appellate powers, now exercised by the Secretary of State, in relation to all acts of marshals and others, in taking and returning the census of the United States." These acts show that the whole matter must come up for final action at the next session of Congress, and be subject to such modification of the plans, as shall then be agreed upon.

The forms used for taking the different national censuses have not been alike. In the census of 1790, the only distinctions were—the number of dwelling-houses and families; the white males under 16 years of age, and of 16 years and upwards; and the white females and colored persons, without distinction of age. Indians not taxed were omitted. In the censuses of 1800, 1810, and 1820, the white males were enumerated separately from the white females, and each in the different ages,—as under 10, of 10 and under 16, of 16 and under 26, of 26 and under 45, and of 45 and upwards. The colored persons were enumerated without distinction of age or sex, in 1800 and 1810; in 1820, their ages were designated as under 14, 14 to 26, 26 to 45, and 45 and upwards, of each sex separately. The forms used for taking the censuses of 1830 and 1840, were substantially the same; the white males and females being numbered separately, as under 5 years of age, 5 to 10, 10 to 15, 15 to 20, 20 to 30, and every decennial period to 100 and upwards. The colored persons were not enumerated, as they should have been, in the same division of ages. In both censuses, their ages were distinguished as under 10, 10 to 24, 24 to 36, 36 to 55, 55 to 100, and 100 and upwards,—a distinction for which it is difficult to conceive a reason. Several other facts were provided for in these censuses.

It is notorious, that the census of 1840 contains very many important errors. In December, 1844, the American Statistical Association, in a Memorial to Congress, which was printed, [Senate Document, No. 5, Vol. I., of the Congress of 1844-45,] called public attention to a large number of these errors. Others have, from time to time, been discovered. One of the committee, in his Report on the Census and Statistics of Boston, taken in 1845, pointed out an error in the enumeration of the inhabitants of that city, in 1840—an over-estimate of at least 8,000! The state census, carefully taken in May, including state paupers, and inmates of hospitals, jails, and houses of correction, made 84,401 inhabitants, and the national census, taken in June, only one month later, made 93,383—showing a difference of 8,982. The manner in which this error was made, is detailed in the Report. It appears that the enumerators,

in two wards of the city, counted all the names of persons which appeared on the books of certain sailor boarding-houses, for the previous three years, and included them among inhabitants of Boston, whether they had been there one or more days, and whether they belonged to Boston, to other parts of the United States, or to foreign countries! Two families contained, according to this estimate, over 1,000 each, and others from 100 to 600 each! The enumerators might, with equal propriety, have counted the names of persons, which appeared on the books of the Tremont House, or any other hotel, for the three years, and enumerated them as inhabitants of Boston. The marines on board the ship *Columbus*, then lying in Boston harbor, amounting to 583, were also enumerated with the inhabitants of Boston, notwithstanding they had already been separately enumerated as persons "on board vessels of war, in the United States naval service" This mode of computation gave Boston 10,921 persons, as employed in navigation, while New York, with far more extensive commerce, by a different, but more correct method of enumeration, had only 2,786 employed in the same service. The correct rule, it seems to the committee, would have been to enumerate those only who were actual residents, belonging to or hailing from the place, whether they were present or temporarily absent; and not the strangers, or foreigners, whose names happened to be on the books of a boarding-house, as temporary lodgers, or others, whose only home was on board a vessel in the harbor. By adopting any other rule, many persons might have been enumerated in one place, and reënumeralated in several other places. In the last English census, the persons engaged in the merchant service, and found on board merchant vessels, were numbered separately from the remainder of the population.

Other statistics, besides those relating to population, were collected with the census of 1840; but they are also exceedingly erroneous. In 1837, the State of Massachusetts instituted inquiries concerning the products of industry of the population, somewhat similar to those instituted by the United States, in 1840. The results of these inquiries, in Boston, at both pe-

riods, in regard to the several items enumerated, appear in the report above referred to. The aggregates are as follows:—

In manufactures in Boston.	In 1837.	In 1840.
Capital invested,	\$5,830,572	\$2,442,309
Males employed,	6,320	2,289
Females employed,	4,450	
Value of the products,	\$11,070,576	\$4,016,573

The manufacturing industry of the city had, in all respects, as to capital invested, operatives employed, and value of the products, increased considerably from 1837 to 1840; and if the facts of the latter year had been truly obtained, it must have exhibited much larger aggregates than those exhibited by the results of the inquiries instituted by the State, in 1837; and yet it appears, from the above statement, that the aggregate was very much diminished, and was but little over *one third as great as it was three years before!*

These are only specimens of many errors which have been detected by those who have particularly examined this document. They are so numerous and so great as to destroy confidence in the accuracy of any of its statements, and to render many of them comparatively valueless. It was well stated, by the Committee of the United States Senate, to whom the Memorial of the American Statistical Association was referred, [Senate Document, No. 146, vol. 8, of the Congress 1844-5,] that "they express with emphasis their opinion, that, in the law providing for taking the next census, care should be taken to insert provisions which will insure fidelity on the part of those whose duty it will be to take the census, and accuracy on the part of those on whom it may devolve, to prepare the results for publication."

It is difficult, and perhaps impossible, to take a census that shall be, in all respects, mathematically correct. In the execution of any plan, there may be obstructions which will embarrass the most careful inquirer, and render it difficult, and sometimes, perhaps, impossible, to obtain all the facts with accuracy. Such measures should, however, be adopted, as will be most

likely to secure the nearest approximation to it. The value of a census depends upon the extent and degree of accuracy of the information obtained. An inaccurate census is not only useless, but it may be positively injurious, by being made the false basis of theories in law. It may be worth while to seek out the causes which have operated to produce the errors in the censuses hitherto taken, that they may be avoided in future. The most prominent among these causes are the following:—

1. The questions required to be asked by the enumerator were too numerous and too indefinite. The whole number of interrogatories was *two hundred and ninety-six*; *eighty* relating to the population, and *two hundred and sixteen* relating to other statistics; and some of them required many other questions to be asked, and explanations to be given, to make them understood, before the information solicited could be obtained. The queries were so numerous that both the asker and answerer often became embarrassed and fatigued, before wading entirely through the list; and many were not asked at all, or, if asked, the information solicited was imperfectly obtained. Many of the questions were also too indefinite to elicit exact information, as we shall presently show.

2. The schedules prepared by the government, and used by the enumerators, made no distinction between the collection and the abstraction of the facts. They proposed to collect, with accuracy, masses of facts, in a form adapted only to their ultimate, condensed, and verified expression, and even this only in the one way proposed. Instead of furnishing the enumerators with a simple schedule for collecting the elementary facts, which might be so abstracted as to exhibit very many different and valuable results, they were required to gather and generalize the particular items of information, in the way prescribed in the schedule, when they were obtained. Such a plan is much more complicated, requires more time to carry it into operation, is less simple, more liable to inaccuracies, and must be less useful, than one which might have been presented. The enumerators should first collect the facts, in the simplest form which their nature will permit, to be subsequently ab-

stracted by a different agency, to show such different results as may be desired. The labor of both processes is thus facilitated, and can be performed with more ease and accuracy.

3. The marshals and assistant marshals, who acted as enumerators, were, in many instances, appointed without reference to their qualifications for these particular duties, and had neither the education, the taste, the discretion, nor the industry, necessary to perform their duties properly. The mode of compensation, being based upon the *number* of the persons returned, and not on the names, held out a strong temptation to swell that number as large as possible, and opened the door of fraud. And there is no doubt that, in many instances, fraud was actually committed, and more than the true number of inhabitants were returned. The manner of presenting the final results, in print, was also defective. A much more convenient and useful plan might have been adopted.

Imperfection and error thus accompanied the interrogatories. the manner in which they were propounded, and the persons by whom the questions were asked; and it is not strange, that the census should have failed of being accurate; and that imperfection and error should be stamped upon the final results. A similar exaction, by similar means, has always resulted, and will continue always to result, in the same manner.

Having thus, in a very brief manner, referred to some of the errors and sources of error, in the census of 1840, we will now present some considerations, in relation to each division of the subject, as suggested in the commencement of this report.

I. The FIRST QUESTION we propose to consider is,—*what information should be sought in the census?* what should be the subjects of inquiry, or the facts to be elicited? and to what objects, and how far, should these inquiries be extended?

1. *The information required should be confined exclusively to the persons or inhabitants of the State.* Statistics concerning the agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial industry of the country, should be obtained, if desired, by a separate agency entirely independent of that relating to the population. A valuation of the property of the State will be taken next year, by

the assessors of the several towns. If the act directing that valuation should be properly framed, all other statistics beside those relating to the population may more properly be obtained by that agency, than one created for the census. The assessors, on whom usually devolves the duty of valuing the property, would be proper persons to ascertain the facts which would "exhibit a full view of the pursuits, industry, and resources of the country." The valuation of the property, and the statistics of industry, should be provided for in one act. The accuracy and value of the facts relating to the population should not be impaired, or endangered, by mixing up other matters of investigation, not immediately relating to it. The accuracy of the last census, no doubt, was impaired by this connection. And the lessons which have been taught by experience, in this matter, not only in our own, but in foreign countries, render this restriction so obvious, that it requires no discussion. An inquiry in regard to house accommodation is the only exception admissible.

2. *Such schedules should be devised, as will secure full information in relation to the population.* The first step to be taken, to ascertain the desired facts, is the construction of a proper form of schedule to be used by the enumerators, in collecting the information originally from the families. It is an indispensable part of the machinery to be put into operation, in accomplishing the great work of taking a correct census, and it is the source from which all the average and aggregate facts are obtained. The accuracy and value of the census will depend very much upon the form of the schedule used. While it should be simple and easy to be understood, and carried into practical operation, it should, at the same time, be exact in its requirements, and particular in regard to the information sought. In filling up the schedule, particular facts only are wanted. Generalization and classification are there out of place. The abstraction of the facts in the schedule, and the arrangement of them into general views and results, should be a separate work, and be performed at a different time, and by such an intelligent agency, as can clearly understand the whole subject, and present its bearings upon the welfare and improvement of society. The schedule should be so constructed as to admit of the insertion of the

name of every person enumerated. This was considered indispensable, in taking the last censuses of England, of Scotland, and of Ireland, respectively. Most of the governments on the continent of Europe have taken censuses in a similar way ; and this plan is essential to the attainment of accuracy in the census of the United States, and of this State. This plan allows the enumerator to correct any imperfection, error, or omission, in the schedule, and insures correctness. The schedule should be so framed as to allow the insertion, not only of the name of every person in every family, but also, opposite the name of the person, such particular facts, descriptive of each, as it may be thought advisable to ascertain. Specific facts, not generalities, are here wanted ; and the name is important only so far as to designate the individual to whom the facts apply. The individual facts only are essentially important ; and it is apparent, if these are not correctly ascertained, any aggregate, obtained from them, will be incorrect. We are well aware, that “ people are slow to see that questions relating to themselves and their households, have any bearing on the general good.” They forget, however, that, in the aggregates of large numbers, the individual is wholly lost sight of in the average, and that the average can be accurately obtained only by an accurate knowledge of all that relates to the individual. A schedule thus formed, and thus filled out, will contain the elementary facts, which may be abstracted and arranged so as best to accomplish the great purposes of the census.

As to the particulars of the information which may be ascertained, in regard to each individual person, there may be some difference of opinion. A census should contain much more than the mere numbers of the people. It should, in some respects, exhibit a view of their physical and social condition. And such facts as may be easily obtained, and as may illustrate this condition, should be required. We regard information as to the color, sex, age, domestic condition, occupation, place of birth, health and education of the population, as essential to give such a view as is desirable.

Two schedules should be prepared and furnished to the enumerators ; one the Householder's Schedule, and the other the Enumerator's Schedule.

The *Householder's Schedule* should contain blanks for inserting the most obvious facts which are designed to be ascertained, in such simple form as may be readily understood by all. It is designed to be left at the dwelling-house of each of the different families proposed to be enumerated, to be filled out by the head, or some member of the family, a few days before it shall be called for by the enumerator. When the enumerator calls for it, he will transfer the facts to his own schedule, and, as far as practicable, add such other facts as are required to be ascertained. Such a schedule would be found convenient, and would aid the enumerator in the discharge of his duty. Discretion should, however, be exercised in the use of it, as many families will be found who are incapable of filling it out, and others will pay no attention to it if left at their houses. The following form is recommended for this schedule. It should be sufficiently large to allow the insertion of ten names, if the family shall consist of so many persons:—

CENSUS FOR 1850. HOUSEHOLDER'S SCHEDULE.

[The head, or some member of the family, in which this schedule is left, is requested to insert the particulars required, immediately after it is received. It will be called for on the day of 1850.]

Name of every person in each family, who makes it his or her usual place of abode, whether present or temporarily absent, beginning with the father and mother, or either, if one only be living; and to be followed by the oldest child living there; then the next oldest, and so on to the youngest; then the inmates, lodgers, or boarders, laborers, domestics, and others.	Ages of the males.	Ages of the females.	Specific profession, occupation, or trade, of each male person, over 15 years of age.	Place of birth of each, stating the name of the town, if born in Massachusetts; but if not born in Massachusetts, the name of the other state of the United States; or the name of the country or kingdom where born, if not born in the United States.
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The *Enumerator's Schedule* should be so constructed as to admit of the insertion of all the information desired, with as little labor as possible, consistent with fulness and accuracy. It should provide for all information concerning the population which is valuable and easily attainable, and for nothing else; and it should be used only by the enumerators. The following is recommended as the form for the schedule. It is designed to

be printed on both sides of cap paper, sufficiently large to admit of the insertion of the facts, without being too much crowded; and, when used, four or six sheets should be stitched together in a fold, and each fold successively filled, as wanted, by the enumerator. Each 1,000 inhabitants will require 30 pages.

SCHEDULE PAGE _____

Inhabitants of _____ County of _____. Subdistrict, No. ____.

1	2	3	4	5	6	Age of each person.		Domestic condition.				13	Place of birth.		Health.				20	
Number of the house visited.	Number of the family visited, and whether living in their own, or in a rented house.	Number of the persons in each family.	Name of every person in each family, who makes it his or her usual place of abode, whether present, or temporarily absent.	Domestic relation of each person to the head of the family.	Indians, colored persons, State paupers, convicts in State prison.	Of the males.	Of the females.	Married.	Widowed.	Married.	Widowed.	Specific profession, occupation, or trade, of each male person, over 15 years of age.	Born in the town in which each resides.	14	15	Deaf and Dumb.	Blind.	Insane.	Idiotic.	Persons over 20 years of age, who cannot read.
						7	8							9	10					

A page of the schedule, as it is intended to be filled out by the enumerator, is inserted, (pages 16 and 17,) to illustrate the manner in which the work should be done. Black lines should be ruled across the form, between each name, so that the lines may be easily traced. They are here omitted. The schedules relating to one town, or in cities to one ward, should be collated and arranged, either according to school districts,—those relating to district number one, first; number two, second, and so on, or in some other convenient way, and afterwards numbered, by inserting at the top the figures 1, 2, 3, and so on to the end, after the printed word page. The name of the town, county, and number of the subdistrict, should be inserted at the top of each page. In column 1, is inserted the number of the dwelling-house, in the order in which it is visited by the enumerator; that first visited in each subdistrict being No. 1, the second visited, No. 2, and so on to the last visited. In the schedule, filled out, the figures 21, 22, and 23, denote the 21st, 22d, and 23d houses visited. In column 2, the families are to be numbered as visit-

ed, in the same manner as the houses. The letter *R* is inserted under the number of the family, to denote that the house is rented, and not owned by the family; and the omission of that letter denotes that they lived in their own house,—a fact, and a distinction, which should always be noted. In column 3, the persons in each family are to be numbered separately. In column 4, is to be inserted the name of every person in each family, who makes that family his or her place of abode, whether present, or temporarily absent; beginning with the father and mother, or either, if one only be living, and to be followed by the eldest child abiding there; then the next oldest, and so on to the youngest; then the inmates, lodgers, and boarders, and then the laborers, domestics, and servants. In column 5, is to be inserted, in words, the relationship of the members of the same family to each other, whether father, mother, son, daughter, lodger, boarder, domestic, or otherwise, as the fact may be, in order to distinguish the members of the *natural* family from others, who may be considered the *social* family. In column 7, is to be inserted, in figures, the specific age of each male person, and, in column 8, of each female person. In column 13, is to be inserted the specific profession, occupation, or trade of each male person, over 15 years of age. In column 15, is to be inserted, against the name of each person who was not born in the town in which he lives, the name of the place in which he was born, specifying the name of the town, if born in Massachusetts, but, if not born in this State, then the name of the state, if in any of the United States, or the government, kingdom, or country, if not born in the United States. In columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, marks, thus, 1, signifying *yes*, are made, when the fact relating to a person admits of a positive answer. When it admits of a negative answer, the space is to be left blank.

To illustrate the process by which the information is to be obtained by the enumerator, we will go with him to visit a family for that purpose. Some of the facts will be ascertained by observation, and others by inquiry. The dwelling-house, the family, and the number of persons in the family, will be entered as presented. By the term family is meant either one

[Specimen Page of the Enumerator's Schedule.]

SCHEDULE PAGE 12.

INHABITANTS OF Cambridge, COUNTY OF Middlesex. SUBDISTRICT No. 4.

1 Number of the dwelling-house visited.	2 Number of the family visited, and whether living in their own, or in a rented house.	3 Number of the persons in each family.	4 Name of every person in each family, who makes it his or her usual place of abode, whether present, or temporarily absent.	5 Domestic relation of each person to the head of the family.	6 Indians, colored persons, State paupers, convicts in State prison.	Age of each person.		Domestic condition.				13 Specific profession, occupation, or trade, of each male person, over fifteen years of age.	Place of birth.		Health.				20 Persons over 20 years of age, who cannot read.
						7 Of the male.	8 Of the female.	9 Married.	10 Widowed.	11 Married.	12 Widowed.		14 Born in the town in which each resides.	15 In what other place in Massachusetts, or in what other state, or country, born.	16 Deaf and dumb.	17 Blind.	18 Insane.	19 Idiotic.	
21	29	1	John Brown,	Father.		56		1				Farmer.	1						
		2	Mary Brown,	Mother.			54			1			1						
		3	Lucy	Da.			26						1						
		4	John	Son.		22						Farmer.	1						
		5	Ann	Da.			18						1		1				
		6	Obed Owen,	Lab.		25						Farmer.		N. H.					
		7	Jane Conner,	Dom.			17							Ireland.					
22	30	1	James Sykes,	Head.		62			1			Blacksmith.		N. Y.					
		2	Ellen	Da.			28						1						
		3	Sarah	Da.			23						1						
	31 R.	1	Peter Norris,		Col.	29		1				Laborer.		Virginia.				1	
		2	Judith Norris,		Col.		24							Louisiana.				1	
23	32	1	John Sullivan,	Father.		35		1				Carpenter.		Ireland.				1	

individual, living in a house or part of a house, on his or her own means of support, or several individuals living together in a house or part of a house, on a common means of support, and separately from others in similar circumstances. By this rule, a widow, living alone, would be counted as one family, and a hundred or more persons, living in a boarding-house or hotel, would also be counted as one family.

The enumerator introduces himself to the family, and makes known the object of his visit in such gentlemanly terms as disarms prejudice, and secures confidence and good will.

The following suggestions embrace the principal ideas to be contained in the questions which it may be necessary to ask:—

1. Is this house owned by the family who occupies it? Or, if more than one family live in it, by either family who occupies it? Or, is it rented?

2. Please to give the name of each and every person in this family: beginning with the head, and so on, as indicated in the householder's schedule. After the same has been entered, the enumerator will then read over the names, and again ask, Are these all in the family? Is there no other person in it?

3. Please to state the relation which each of these persons bears to you. Is it a son? daughter? inmate? lodger, or boarder? laborer? domestic?

4. Please to give the age of each person? And, as he calls each name, he writes the age against it, either in the male or female column, as the facts may be.

5. What inmates of this family are married? Widowers? Widows? And insert the affirmative mark against the name of such person.

6. What is the profession, occupation, or trade of ———? Here he will call the name of each male person over 15 years of age, whose occupation he has not already learned, and insert the information accordingly.

7. Which of the inmates of this family were born in this town or city? Which were born in other places? In what place was ——— born? Here insert the birth-place of each.

8. Are any persons in this family deaf and dumb? Blind? Insane? Idiotic? If so, which person or persons?

9. Is there any person in this family who cannot read and write? If so, whom?

These questions, and the mode of asking them, may be varied according to the circumstances of each case, using proper discretion at all times, in the manner of ascertaining the facts, so as to avoid giving offence and seeming to be too obtrusive.

After the enumerator has filled the schedule, he will carefully examine the whole again, before leaving the family, and, if any doubt arises as to any entry, he will ask any further question or questions, until the facts are truly ascertained. He will then ask, Is there any other family in this house? And if there be, he visits that family, and ascertains the same facts in relation to it.

This form of schedule is simple in its construction, exact in its requirements, and may be easily understood, and will be found convenient in practice. In whatever district it may be used and filled out, it will contain facts concerning every dwelling-house, every family, and every person. It is not intended that the name of any individual person, nor the individual facts concerning such person shall be published singly; but it is intended that they should be abstracted, classified, and generalized, so as to present average and general views of the population, which would be of the utmost importance to the philanthropist, the economist, and the statesman. The facts hitherto obtained in censuses, such as the number of males and females, and their ages, in certain specified periods of life, were no other facts desired, might be more easily and more accurately obtained by such a schedule, than by the old method. But there are others of equal if not greater importance, which they contain, and which may be abstracted from them. A part only of the different *classes of facts*, which may be derived from them, we will now advert to. Each class should be kept distinct, and be made by a separate examination of the schedule.

1. *House accommodation.* It is an interesting inquiry in political economy, whether a population are retrograding, stationary, or progressive, in their general privations, or comforts; and no facts, easily accessible, can more clearly show the con-

dition of a people, in this respect, than the extent of house accommodation which they enjoy. A comparison of the number and proportion of houses which are occupied by one, or more than one family each, and the number of persons to each house, if made between different places, or in the same place at different periods, will show this with considerable accuracy. Though houses differ as to the extent of their accommodations and conveniences, and though some may better accommodate two families than others one, yet the general result would be of great value and importance, in showing the average condition, and the progressive wealth and welfare of a population. It would also be valuable in its bearing upon their sanitary condition. Such information is worthy of being obtained. Inquiries of a similar character have already been made, under the direction of one of the committee, with success and gratifying results, in one of the large cities.

It is also of great interest to ascertain how many families live in houses owned by themselves, and how many in houses rented, and not owned by their occupants. A comparison of this kind, made in relation to the same town or city, at different periods, or between different towns and cities, in relation to each other, or to those in different places in this country and in Europe, would furnish views of great interest and importance in political economy. Such facts are easily attainable by the plan proposed in the schedule.

2. *Classes of the population.* Every person, being individually described in the schedule, affords the means of dividing the population, in the abstracts, into almost an indefinite number of classes, according to color, sex, age, domestic condition, occupation, place of birth, health, education, and otherwise, in more minute subdivisions, which would exhibit comparisons of importance, and which cannot be done on the plan by which the censuses have hitherto been taken.

3. *Ages of the population.* This is one of the most important elements of information, and forms one of the best means of comparing the people of one place with those of another; and the people of the same place, at one period, with those of the same at another period. A census in which the ages are not

taken, is comparatively useless. A people may be more or less happy or unhappy, healthy or unhealthy, efficient, or inefficient, according as a greater or less number are found of one age, or of another. The ages may be elevated, on the average, so high, or depressed so low, as to indicate one or another of these conditions. A recent writer of high authority says, "A minute classification of the ages of the living in every locality, and in every class of society, is indispensable." * * * "The collection of the ages of the living, with all attainable accuracy, is an object, the importance of which does not admit of a dispute." Another writer of equal authority says: "The enumeration of a people would be very incomplete, without a correct knowledge of the age of every member of the community. Age is the first element of mortality. From the cradle to the grave, successive waves of individuals are swept along, and no estimate can be formed of their condition as a body, whether as to education, occupation, or productive power, without this information as the first indispensable preliminary. But a comparison of the ages of successive periods affords a test of advancement or retrogression."

To illustrate this subject, population has been divided into three classes. 1. The *Dependent Class*—those under 15 years of age, who are dependent on those older, for support. 2. The *Productive Class*—those between 15 and 60, who are the only class who enjoy the full vigor of life, and are capable of discharging all its manifold duties. And 3. The *Aged Class*—those over 60. Where the proportion of the dependent class is large, there will be found a greater amount of sickness, and a larger number of deaths annually, and consequently less productive power, and more poverty. The reverse of this will be found where the proportion of the productive class is large, or where there are a large number who have survived this class, and passed into the aged class. It appears, by the census of 1840, that, to every 10,000 persons, there were

	Under 15.	15 to 60.	Over 60.
In Lowell,	2,500	7,368	132
In Illinois,	4,762	5,045	193

That is, while in Lowell 2,500 persons were dependent upon 7,368 for support, in Illinois 4,762 persons were dependent on 5,045, for support; showing, from the ages alone, that the productive energies of one were more than double those of the other.

We are aware that an opinion has existed in some minds, which may be characterized by the terms foolish and silly, that there are persons, and especially females, who would object to give their ages; or, if given at all, would give them incorrectly. If such an unwillingness exists at all, it is to a very limited extent. And it is found, by actual experience, to be much more prevalent among men than among women. In the last census of England, few refused to give their ages; but, among those that refused, there were ten men to one woman; and the extent and proportion were very nearly the same, in taking the census of Boston, in 1845.

The schedule we recommend, it is proposed, shall contain the specific age against the name of each individual person. This will allow the abstract to be made, subdividing the population into classes, as to their ages, and designating them by decennial periods of life, according to the censuses of the United States for 1830 and 1840; or, which is better, into quinquennial periods, according to the abstracts of the last census of England; or, which is best of all, into every year of life, according to the admirable census of Ireland for 1841; and separately as to each class of persons, subdivided according to color, sex, domestic condition, occupation, health, or otherwise. Whatever division as to ages should be determined upon in the abstract, it should be adopted alike for the colored and for the white population. The adoption of a different plan of division in the censuses of the United States hitherto taken, without any apparent reason, constitutes a great and radical defect in those censuses. We want to compare the relative ages and condition of the white and colored population together; and this cannot be done, unless the abstracts of their ages are made in the same uniform manner. This plan would give the means of showing the specified ages of the deaf and dumb, the blind, the insane,

and the idiotic, in each class, according to color, sex, and otherwise; and how far either of these circumstances has had an influence to produce, in such persons, a disturbance of their health.

4. *Domestic condition of the population.* The registrar-general of births, marriages, and deaths, in England, in his fifth report, observes, that “it is not a little remarkable, that, although the increase of the population, and the influence of early and late marriages, on the welfare of nations, have, for the whole of the present century, occupied public attention, and been made the basis of theories, which have guided or biased legislation, no provision has yet been made for determining the simplest fundamental facts,—the foundation of all reasoning on the subject,—such as the ages at marriage, the ages of the mothers and children, and the numbers of the married and single, at the several periods of life. Upon many of these points, the greatest ignorance prevails; writers on population depending on rough approximations, derived from scanty, imperfect, and often erroneous data, because the censuses and registers have not yet been taken and abstracted upon a comprehensive and well-disgested plan.” These principles should, as far as practicable, be carried out, in taking a census of the State, and of the United States. The mode of personal inquiry proposed in the schedule, will afford the means of easily ascertaining the number of married and widowed, at the different periods of life, and the average length of the time in which the married have lived in that state. In making the abstracts, the number of persons at the respective ages of all conditions, having been ascertained, the number and proportion of the unmarried will be readily found, by deducting the number of married and widowed from the whole number, without a specific description in the schedule.

5. *Occupations of the population.* In the census of 1840, an attempt was made to obtain an account of the occupations of the people, and the following questions were asked:—“What is the number of persons in this family employed in mining operations? Agriculture? Commerce? Manufactures and trades? Navigation of the ocean? Navigation of lakes and rivers? Learned professions and engineers?” These questions were

too indefinite to elicit exact information. They were differently understood by different enumerators, and by the enumerated;—by some in not giving the proper meaning to the word “Commerce,” as distinguished from “trade,” or “navigation;” by others, in including whole families, instead of particular persons in the family; by others, in including males only; by others, in including both sexes; and by others, in various other particulars; and many of the results obtained are so imperfect and incorrect as to be utterly useless. This, it would be easy to show, by going into details. A single statement only will now be noticed. The number of persons returned as “employed in navigation,” in Boston, was 10,813, and, in New York, 2,786; that is, New York, with her extended commerce, returns only a little over one quarter of the number that Boston returns! Such a statement carries its own condemnation on the face of it, and destroys confidence in the accuracy of others which accompany it.

The mode of personal inquiry we propose, will secure facts concerning the specific occupation, so far as it can be known, of each male individual over fifteen years of age. Having these facts, an intelligible and useful abstract may be made, that may be relied upon as correct. And they will allow the abstracts to distinguish between the ages, and other circumstances of the individuals enumerated; which has not been, and cannot be, done according to the modes of inquiry hitherto adopted. In this respect, it may be useful to show, in regard to each class, as it shall be deemed expedient, the number between 15 and 20, 20 and 30, 30 and 40, 40 and 50, and over 50 years of age, engaged in any occupation. The different occupations might be divided and classified, so as to show separately the numbers which contribute to specified objects, such as to building, clothing, education, food, furniture, health, justice, literature, and the fine arts, locomotion, machinery, navigation, religion, or the unclassified, or those whose occupation is not specified, or otherwise, as shall be deemed best.

6. *Places of birth of the population.* The schedules proposed are intended to show the specific place of birth of each individual person. In the abstract, it would be interesting and useful,

as illustrating the stationary or locomotive habits of the people, to show the number born in the town in which they reside, where town boundaries are defined, and in the country where they are not; and the number born in other places, specifying separately, in regard to those who are not natives of the place in which they live, the number born in each county of this State, and the numbers in each other State of the several United States; or, if not born in the United States, the number born in each other foreign government or kingdom. Perhaps no part of the information would be more interesting and useful. The schedules, so filled out and preserved in the towns and in the state archives, might essentially aid in ascertaining the residences of persons supported under the pauper laws.

7. *Health of the population.* It is proposed to gather information in regard to only four classes of diseased persons, the deaf and dumb, the blind, the insane, and the idiotic. This information being specific, and applied to persons already described in regard to various other circumstances of their lives, will allow abstracts to be made of the most useful character, to illustrate how each of these circumstances influence the production or continuance of the diseases of each of these classes. This cannot be done on the old plan of taking the census. The classification in the last census, of those "at private charge," and those "at public charge," if deemed expedient, can better be made in some other way, than by personal inquiry of the individuals.

8. *Education of the population.* The only inquiry under this head which it is deemed expedient to make, when filling up the schedule, is, as to the persons over twenty years of age, who cannot read and write; and this information should be gathered and abstracted in regard to the colored, as well as in regard to the white population; and, in respect to those who were, as well as those who were not, born in the United States. The number of public schools and other institutions of learning, and the number of persons attending such schools, cannot be obtained by personal inquiry of the families. This information may be more easily, and more correctly ascertained, by the reports of Boards of Education, or other officers of the

State, city, or town, who have these matters in charge. It should not be mixed up with the enumeration of the inhabitants.

Attempts have been made, in taking censuses, to ascertain the number of births, marriages, and deaths, which have taken place in a given district in a stated period of time ; but, so far as our experience and observation go, and our knowledge extends, information so gathered cannot be relied upon as accurate, since it is impossible, owing to the locomotive habits and other circumstances of the people, to ascertain these facts correctly after the lapse of a year or more time. These statistics are exceedingly important ; but they can be obtained only by an efficient system of registration of the events at or near the time, at which they occur. Such a system we hope to see established in this State, and in each of the other States, and proper measures taken to carry it into successful operation.

Such is a brief description of some of the classes of facts, which might be abstracted from the information secured by the proposed schedules. Others, of a greater or less degree of importance, might also be obtained ; and it must be obvious, that a census thus taken, and information thus obtained and presented to the public, would be far more complete and correct, than any hitherto taken, and consequently incomparably more useful and valuable.

II. The SECOND QUESTION we propose to consider is,—*How shall the information be obtained ?* What plan shall be devised ? What persons or agency shall be employed to carry it into execution ? And what compensation shall be paid for the labor ? In our opinion, a plan of which the following is an outline seems most feasible.

1. Three State Commissioners should be appointed by the Governor and Council, to superintend and direct, in all matters relating to the census. And three town commissioners should be appointed by the mayor and aldermen of each city, and the selectmen of each town in the State, to be town enumerators, to gather the information originally from the families, and fill up and transmit the schedules to the State Commissioners.

Each city and town in the State should constitute an enumeration district, and the town commissioners should be allowed to make as many sub-districts, and to appoint such a number of assistants, as may be necessary to ensure the completion of the enumeration within the time prescribed by law. All these commissioners and assistant commissioners, should be selected and appointed with reference to their peculiar fitness for the duty, and not on account of any political opinions which they may entertain. They should be men of intelligence and discretion, ready writers, of persevering industry, and exact systematic habits, and of such address and gentlemanly bearing, as will not offend by rudeness; and they should be required to devote their own personal attention to the business, and not delegate it to others. A fair compensation should be paid for the performance of the duty; and penalties should be imposed on the commissioners and others for any neglect of it, and on the persons to be enumerated for withholding any information required.

The State Commissioners should be required to prepare the blank schedules to be used by the district commissioners, and all others concerned in gathering the information and in making the abstracts, and should accompany all such blanks with all necessary explanations and instructions, stated with sufficient exactness and minuteness of detail, to cause them to be clearly understood, and render them plain and easy in practical use. Before the time appointed to take the census, the district commissioners and their assistants should be prepared, by previous consultation with each other, and by instruction, to do their work accurately, and in a uniform and systematic manner, and, if any doubts should exist as to their being able to do this, one of the number, at least, should be required to attend a general meeting of the district commissioners, to be called for the purpose of being particularly instructed as to the mode of obtaining the facts, at the office of the State Commissioners.

The time during which the town enumerators should be required to do their work, should be limited by law. The census of England, for 1841, so far as relates to the filling up of the schedules, was all taken in one day; during which, more than 15,000,000 names, with all the accompanying facts, were en-

tered in the schedules, in 35,000 districts, by 35,000 individual enumerators employed. In this enumeration, every person was considered as an inhabitant of the house in which he slept the previous night, whether at home or away from home, it being supposed that the strangers present would equal the citizens absent. Whether it would be expedient to adopt this mode of simultaneous enumeration, in this State or in the United States, is a matter of some doubt. The time required to obtain the information, so far as relates to the filling up of the schedules, should be limited, and not be extended beyond one month. That month would be, according to the Constitution of this State, the month of May. If delayed until the month of June, July, or August, it might not show a correct view of the population, as many families remove from the cities during those months.

The original schedules, filled out by the district commissioners and their assistants, should be by them, in general meeting, carefully examined, corrected, and collated, and afterwards deposited in the office of the town clerk, to be bound and indexed, and there to remain as the permanent property of the town. Copies of these schedules, carefully made, and verified on oath, should be transmitted to the State commissioners. And, after they have been carefully examined and arranged, and the information which they contain abstracted, they should be bound in a suitable number of volumes, and be provided with an index for reference to each family, and deposited in the archives of the State.

The State commissioners should abstract the information contained in the schedules, in such form, in regard to such particulars, and to such an extent, as shall be deemed best and proper to promote the great design of the census; and should accompany the abstracts with such analyses, general views, remarks, and deductions; and present such views of the former censuses, as will illustrate the history, condition, and increase of the population, in the different parts of the State.

2. In considering the different methods of taking a census, the *question as to the expense* will be presented. In the law providing for taking the last national census, the enumerators were

to be paid at the rate of \$2 00 for every 100 persons by them returned, when such persons resided in the country ; but, when they resided in a town containing more than 3,000 inhabitants, only at the same rate of \$2 00 for every 100 persons, for the first 3,000 ; and at the rate of \$2 00 for every 300 persons over 3,000. When, on the other hand, from the dispersed situation of the inhabitants in some sections of the country, \$2 00 was not a sufficient compensation for the labor of enumerating 100 persons, the marshals, with the approbation of the judges of their respective districts or territories, were permitted to make such further allowance to their assistants, as should be deemed adequate, so that it should never exceed \$6 00 for any 50 persons by them enumerated.

For the purpose of illustrating this part of the subject, so far as it could be done by past experience, a letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, proposing certain questions relating to the last census. From his answer, it appears that the whole expense of the national census of 1840, with the statistics, was \$919,358 18 ; and, after deducting what was paid for paper, printing, clerk hire, and other incidental expenses, the enumeration cost \$655,234 09. The population enumerated was 17,063,353, which gives 3 cents $8\frac{4}{10}$ mills for each individual person. The expense in taking the same census, in Massachusetts, was \$18,390 47. The population enumerated was 737,669, which gives 2 cents $4\frac{9}{10}$ mills for each individual person.

The city of Boston paid, for taking the census of 1845, exclusive of the cost of the blanks, and printing the report, \$1,500 ; and the population enumerated was 114,366, which gives 1 cent $4\frac{9}{10}$ mills, for each person. This is 68 per cent. less than the proportional expense of taking the national census in Massachusetts, and 158 per cent. less than that of the whole United States. This was not a fair compensation for the amount of labor then performed ; but it might be considered more nearly so, if no labor had been expended for other matters than those which merely relate to the persons or the population.

The city of New York paid \$10,781 78, for taking the census of that city, in 1845 ; the population enumerated was 371,223, which is 2 cents and 9 mills for each person—a little

over double the sum paid in Boston, and more than four times the compensation for the same amount of labor.

The committee propose that the State commissioners shall be paid, by the State, a reasonable compensation for their services and necessary travel, to be agreed upon and fixed by the Governor and Council; and also for the cost of clerk hire, in making the abstracts, and for other necessary expenses; and that the district commissioners shall be paid by the towns and cities in which they respectively reside, at such rates as shall be deemed proper, based either on the number of names of persons enumerated, and returned in the schedule, or on day service, or otherwise, as shall be deemed best.

The expense of making an enumeration in the country, where the population is dispersed, would be somewhat greater than in large towns and densely populated places; but it may fairly be presumed that the enumeration might be carefully made on the plan we propose, at a cost not much, if any, exceeding that paid for the last national census, in proportion to the number of persons enumerated. The expense of the abstracts and of printing might possibly be greater, but it would depend upon the number of classes of facts abstracted. Provided the whole expense should be somewhat greater than the last census, the difference should not be considered, when the value of the census would be so incomparably increased. We should then have a census worthy the age in which we live, and of the State whose population it is proposed to enumerate. And the State, and every town in the State, would be furnished with a series of documents, illustrating facts in regard to the population, which might be of great consequence for future reference.

Such is an outline of the plan which the committee propose for taking the census of 1850; and they have presented, accompanying this report, a draft of an act, embracing such provisions of law as seemed necessary effectually to secure the objects intended. The committee are unanimous in the opinion that it is practical, and that it may and should be carried into effect. Whether it is expedient to pass the act, at this or at an early part of the next session, is submitted to the judgment of the Legislature. Its passage should not, however, be de-

layed, so as to embarrass any measure necessary to be taken before commencing the work.

This plan, it seems to the committee, might be adopted by the national government, and carried into operation in all the States of the Union, in taking the census of 1850. An act of Congress might be passed, authorizing the appointment of a central commission of three suitable and competent persons to reside at Washington, subject to the control of the Department of the Interior, which should have the superintendence and direction of all matters relating to the census. Such a commission might appoint three suitable and competent persons in each state, to be State Commissioners, on the recommendation of the governor of the state, or some other authority. The National Commissioners should prepare and furnish all necessary blanks for the enumerators; and they should accompany the blanks with such explanations and instructions as may be necessary to cause them to be clearly understood in practical use. If a schedule, embracing all the items of information contemplated to be ascertained by the one we have proposed, should be considered too minute for general adoption, some of the less important matters might be omitted. Nothing less full, however, should be adopted than the Householder's Schedule, given on page 13. The State Commissioners should make all the abstracts of the facts contained in the Enumerators' Schedules, according to such forms, and to such extent, as shall be prescribed and required by the National Commissioners. These abstracts should then be forwarded to Washington, to be examined, corrected if necessary, and combined into a general report; and they should be accompanied by such general remarks and deductions, as will exhibit a comparative view of the past and present state and condition of the population; and something more than a mere skeleton of the facts, like those hitherto presented in our national censuses.

The several National and State Commissioners might have the charge of collecting and arranging the statistical information concerning the wealth of the country; but it seems to the committee that it should be kept entirely distinct from the information required to be ascertained concerning the population; and that it should be gathered originally from the owners, at a dif-

ferent time. It seems to us that statistics, which would exhibit the actual valuation of all property, real and personal, owned by every person in every State in the Union, whether by an individual, by associates, or by corporations, not only manufacturing, but all other kinds, based upon a price at which it might be sold at the time of valuation, in the place where situated, would be infinitely more valuable than statistics collected like those of 1840. The plan of obtaining the information, then attempted to be carried out, had been adopted in New York, in 1835, and, in a different mode, in Massachusetts, in 1837, and it was again adopted in those states in 1845; but the results in neither state can be implicitly relied upon as full and correct. Many facts in every town escaped notice, and many other statements of facts are extremely imperfect. Many persons were not visited at all in obtaining the statistics, and the whole were mere estimates, and, in many cases, not as correct as an intelligent person might have made in his own office, without personal inquiry. The information is not reliable, and comparatively useless. And any attempt to obtain it in a similar manner will result in the same imperfection. An act of Congress might be passed, authorizing the State Commissioners to require the assessors or other persons who make the public valuation of property for the purposes of taxation, or some other agency that shall be deemed proper, to make a valuation of every person's property in every state in the Union, combining, in such valuation, all the information that it shall be deemed proper to obtain in relation to the amount and value of the products of the industry of the country. The result of such a measure might be relied upon as nearly correct, and the information would be of great practical value to the nation.

The remarks we have already made in regard to the population will apply with equal force in preparing the schedules for obtaining the information concerning the wealth and productive industry of the country. Such a form of schedule should be used by the assessors or enumerators, as would be adapted to gather the facts in the most clear, simple form. To classify and generalize the facts, at the time when they are obtained, in a form in which they are designed ultimately to be presented, is decidedly objectionable, and will inevitably mislead. It is

impossible to prepare a form which shall combine sufficient simplicity and fulness, and classification, in one and the same schedule. In the forms used by the United States, in 1840, and by the States of New York and Massachusetts, in 1845, many articles were not provided for, and hence the aggregate amount of the industry of all the population was not truly represented. Two forms should be used—one to obtain the facts originally from the owners or producers, the other to contain the aggregates or abstracts of these facts for each town, district, county or state.

The forms for the assessors, or enumerators, might be somewhat like the following; one for the valuation of the property, the other for the products of the industry:—

I. *Valuation of the Estates in* , *County of* , *State of* .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number of the person as visited.	Name of every person owning property, liable to taxation, whether resident or non-resident; whether individual, company, or corporation.	Specific profession, occupation, trade, or employment of each person.	Quantity and kind of real estate; specifying the number or quantity, and value each, of dwelling-houses, warehouses, stores, barns, acres of improved land, of moving and grazing land, of wood land, of unimproved exclusive of wood land, of unimprovable land, of the different kinds of mining or manufacturing establishments, and such other real estate as is specified in the abstracts.	Total value of each person's real estate.	Description and value of the personal estate, specifying plate, furniture, stock in trade, money, stocks, and such other kinds of personal property as are specified in the abstracts.	Total value of each person's personal estate.	Total value of the real and personal estate.

II. *Annual Products of Industry in* , *County of* , *State of* .

1	2	3	4	5	6	Hands employed.				1
Number of the person as visited.	Name of every one who produces any article on his own account, and not as the agent or journeyman of another, whether individual, company, or corporation.	Specific profession, occupation, trade, or employment of each person.	Quantity, kind, and value of each article produced in one year, specifying the quantity and kind of each agricultural, commercial, mining, and manufactured articles, such as are specified in the form of the abstracts.	Number of separate establishments.	Capital invested in the business.	7	8	9	10	Total annual value of the products.
						Males.	Average wages per week.	Females.	Average wages per week.	

Separate forms should be prepared for the *abstracts* of the valuation of the estates, and of the products of industry. The same form will serve the purpose of the town, district, county, and State abstracts. The following will present an idea of the forms which might be used for this purpose:—

1. *Abstract of the Valuation of the Estates in* *County of* *State of*

1	2	3
Quantity valued.	Kinds of Property valued.	Amount of Valuation.

The printed form should contain a list under the second column, first, of the different kinds of real estate, and second, of the different kinds of personal estate, which it is intended should be separately valued, to be a guide to those who make the original valuation; and all the information relating to each kind, contained in the original enumerator's schedule, should be carefully abstracted, and the aggregate of the whole entered in the general abstract; the number and quantity in the first, and the valuation in the third column, against each article enumerated and valued.

2. *Abstract of the Annual Products of Industry in* *County of* *State of*

1	2	3	4	5		6
Quantity produced.	Kinds of articles produced.	Number of establishments.	Capital invested.	Hands employed.		Value of the products.
				Male.	Female.	

The printed form for this abstract should also contain, under the second column, a complete list of the different kinds of agricultural, commercial, mining, and manufactured productions, which are intended to be enumerated and valued separately in the abstracts; and this list should be constantly before the enumerator, in gathering the information originally from the producers. All the information relating to each, contained in

the original schedule, should be carefully abstracted and entered in the aggregates, in its proper place in this abstract.

In addition to these forms, another might be prepared for the town authorities, for inserting such information relating to education, schools, schoolhouses, churches, philanthropic institutions, and other matters, relating to the whole town or district, as it might be thought proper to obtain. This information might be ascertained from public records, or other sources than individual inquiry of the different families.

This is a mere outline of a plan which might be adopted for obtaining the statistical information which may be desired. It will of course be subject to such modification as a careful examination of the whole subject would dictate, considered in connection with the circumstances, under which it is intended to be carried into effect.

In every census since the adoption of the Constitution, the marshals of the several judicial districts of the United States have had the superintendence and direction of taking the census; and on them has devolved the appointment of the assistant marshals, to make the enumeration in the sub-divisions of their districts. Many of these marshals have had no suitable qualifications to direct in these matters; and, if a proper assistant marshal happened to be appointed, it was almost accidental. The office was, in many instances, conferred upon political partisans, without qualifications for this duty, and even then was underlet to incompetent persons. Error and imperfection, of course, resulted from such an agency; and, it is to be feared, if repeated, the same results will again follow. These evils will be likely to be removed by the agency we propose.

But, whatever plan is adopted by the United States, it is earnestly desired that Massachusetts may be permitted to use the funds appropriated by the nation, in making such a census as she desires. This may be done on condition that the State Commissioners agree to collect and furnish, at such time, in such form, and for such compensation as shall be required, and as would have been furnished, by marshals or any agency that might have been appointed. Such an arrangement would combine the labor of the State and Nation, and supersede the neces-

sity of two enumerations, and make one more perfect and complete than either would otherwise be. And, if no general law be passed, carrying out our views, it is hoped that a special provision may be inserted in the act of Congress, authorizing the State to appoint three commissioners, to act as the agents of the general government, while they perform the labor required by the State Constitution.

The committee beg leave, in this connection, to refer to a paper published in the *Journal of the Statistical Society of London*, Vol. III., page 72, for April, 1840, on the *Best Mode of Taking the Census of the United Kingdom, for 1841*; also, to the three volumes containing the *Enumeration Abstract*, the *Occupation Abstract*, and the *Age Abstract*, of the *Census of England and Scotland, for 1841*; also, to the admirable, voluminous *Report of the Commissioners appointed to take the census of Ireland for 1841*; and to the *Report concerning the Census and Statistics of Boston, Massachusetts, for 1845*. They also refer to the series of *Reports of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England*. These works contain the results of the more recent experience on these subjects, and should be carefully examined by all those who may have the superintendence of the census. We append to this report specimens of the schedules used in taking the census of England and Ireland.

The committee deem it unnecessary to state more fully, either the reasons which have been presented to their minds in favor of the plan here recommended, or the many advantages which would result from its adoption. It would not only provide the basis of representation, but also the means of more enlightened legislation, derived from a more thorough knowledge of the population. It would furnish data in connection with an accurate registration of the births and deaths, by which we could construct proper life tables for every town in the Commonwealth, for the guidance of life and health insurance officers. It would give facts which would have an important bearing upon questions connected with sanitary reform, and enable us to show the influence of different localities and causes, on human longevity. It would afford the means of settling many ques-

tions relating to the productive power, the social condition, and the movements of the population, the importance of which cannot be too highly estimated. And it would essentially aid the statesman, the philosopher, the philanthropist, and the christian, in their efforts to elevate the physical, social, and moral condition of man.

All which, with the accompanying bill, is respectfully submitted, in behalf of the committee.

LEMUEL SHATTUCK, *Chairman.*

APPENDIX A.

Specimen Page of the Schedule used in taking the last Census of England, in 1841.

City or Borough of *Southwark.* }
Parish or Township of *St. Saviour.* }

Place.	Houses.		Names of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	Age and Sex.		Profession, Trade, Employment, or of Independent Means.	Where Born.	
	Uninhabited or Building.	Inhabited.		Males.	Females.		Whether born in same County.	Whether born in Scotland, Ireland, or foreign parts.
<i>George Street, -</i>		1	<i>James Johnson,</i>	40		<i>Chemist,</i>	Y.	
			<i>Jane ditto, -</i>		35		N.	
			<i>William ditto, -</i>	15		<i>Shoem. Ap.</i>	Y.	
			<i>Anne ditto, -</i>		13		Y.	
			<i>Edward Smith,</i>	30		<i>Chemist's Sh.</i>	N.	
			<i>Sarah Robins,</i>		45	<i>F. S.</i>		I.
<i>Do. - - 1 U.</i>	1		<i>John Cox, -</i>	60		<i>Publican,</i>	N.	
<i>Do. - - 1 B.</i>			<i>Mary ditto, -</i>		45		Y.	
<i>Do. - - 1 B.</i>			<i>Ellen ditto, -</i>		20		N.	
			<i>Job Macpherson,</i>	25		<i>M. S.</i>		S.
			<i>Henry Wilson,</i>	35		<i>Army,</i>	N.	
			<i>n. k., - -</i>	above 20				
<i>Extra Parochial Place, named "The Close."</i>		1	<i>William Jones,</i>	50		<i>Farmer,</i>	Y.	
			<i>Elizabeth ditto,</i>		40		Y.	
			<i>William ditto, -</i>	15		<i>Navy,</i>	Y.	
			<i>Charlotte ditto,</i>		8		Y.	
			<i>n. k. ditto,</i>		5 months.		Y.	

night of Sunday, the 6th June, 1841.

NAMES		AGE.	SEX.	RELATION Of each to the Head of Family, as whether Wife, Son, Daughter, Visitor, &c.	MARRIAGE.		OCCUPATION.	EDUCATION.	Native of what Country, County, or City.
Christian Names.	Surnames.				Whether "Married," "Not Married," or "Widow."	In what year married, or in what years if more than once.			
		Years.	Whether Male or Female.					Whether he or she can "Read," "Read and Write," or "Cannot Read."	
John	Moran,	59	Male,	Head of Family,	Married,	1805	Farmer,	Read,	Kildare.
Eliza	Moran,	55	Female,	Wife,	Married,	1805	-	Cannot Read,	Do.
George	Moran,	28	Male,	Son,	Not Married,	-	Woollen Weaver,	Read and Write,	Do.
Matilda	Moran,	23	Female,	Daughter,	Not Married,	-	Spinning Wool,	Do.	Do.
Jane	Moran,	16	Female,	Daughter,	Not Married,	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
John	Moran,	13	Male,	Son,	Not Married,	-	At Mr. Daly's School,	Do.	Do.
Mary	Mathers,	45	Female,	Sister-in-Law,	Not Married,	-	None,	Do.	Do.
Peter	Macdonald,	24	Male,	Servant,	Married,	1836	Labourer,	Do.	Scotland.
Peggy	Butler,	22	Female,	Do.	Not Married,	-	House Servant,	Cannot Read,	Dublin.
Jane	Whitmore,	23	Female,	Visitor,	Not Married,	-	None,	Read and Write,	England.

2ND TABLE.—Return of Members of this Family, now alive, and whose home is in this House, but who were absent on the night of Sunday, the 6th June, 1841.

NAMES.		AGE.		SEX.	RELATION Of each to the Head of the Family, whether Wife, Son, Daughter, Cousin, Servant, Visitor, &c.	OCCUPATION.	In what Country, County, or City, at present residing.
Christian Names.	Surnames.	Years.	Months.				
Timothy,	Moran,	31	-	Male,	Son,	Army,	America.
Eliza,	Moran,	26	-	Female,	Daughter,	None,	Dublin.
William,	Moran,	18	-	Male,	Son,	Haymaker,	England.
Thomas,	Moran,	22	-	Male,	Son,	Constabulary,	County Down.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Nine.

AN ACT

Relating to the Census, or Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the State.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1 SECT. 1. An enumeration of the inhabitants of
2 this State shall be taken on the first day of May, in
3 the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty, in
4 the manner hereinafter prescribed. Each town and
5 city is hereby made an enumeration district, for the
6 purposes of this act.

1 SECT. 2. To carry into effect the purposes of this
2 act, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice
3 and consent of the Council, shall, on or before the
4 first day of March, in the said year, appoint three

5 proper and competent persons, to be State commis-
6 sioners; and the selectmen of each town, and the
7 mayor and aldermen of each city, shall, on or before
8 the first day of April, in said year, appoint three
9 proper and competent persons, residents of such town
10 or city, to be district commissioners; and each of
11 said commissioners shall take an oath faithfully to
12 perform the duties of the office.

1 SECT. 3. The said State commissioners shall su-
2 perintend and direct in all matters relating to the cen-
3 sus. They shall prepare and furnish to the several
4 district commissioners, on or before the first day of
5 April, in the said year, the blank schedules or forms,
6 to be used by said district commissioners, in obtain-
7 ing the information required concerning the inhabit-
8 ants, and shall accompany said schedules with such
9 explanations and instructions, as may be necessary
10 and proper to cause them to be clearly understood, and
11 easy to be carried into operation. The form of the
12 schedule to be used by the district commissioners
13 shall be as follows:—

SCHEDULE PAGE _____

Inhabitants of _____ *County of* _____ . *Subdistrict, No.* _____ .

1 Number of the house visited.	2 Number of the family visited, and whether living in their own, or is in a rented house.	3 Number of the persons in each family.	4 Name of every person in each family, who makes it his or her usual place of abode, whether present, or temporarily absent.	5 Domestic relation of each person to the head of the family.	6 Indians, colored persons, State paupers, convicts in State prison.	Age of each person.		Domestic condition.				13 Specific profession, occupation, or trade, of each male person, over 15 years of age.	Place of birth.		Health.					20 Persons over 20 years of age, who cannot read.
						7 Of the males.	8 Of the females.	9 Married.	10 Widowed.	11 Married.	12 Widowed.		14 Born in the town in which each resides.	15 In what other place in Massachusetts, or in what other state or country, born.	16 Deaf and Dumb.	17 Blind.	18 Insane.	19 Idiotic.		

1 SECT. 4. The said district commissioners shall act
2 as enumerators of the inhabitants of the districts in
3 which they reside, and shall perform all such duties
4 as are prescribed by this act, or may be required by
5 the State commissioners. They shall have authority
6 to subdivide their districts, and to appoint so many
7 assistants, to act under their authority and responsi-
8 bility, as will enable them to complete the enumera-
9 tion within the time herein prescribed. They shall
10 make the enumeration by actual inquiry at every
11 dwelling-house, or by personal inquiry of the head
12 of every family dwelling therein; and they shall
13 insert, in the said schedule, the name of each and
14 every inhabitant, and opposite each name, as far as
15 practicable, such facts to describe such inhabitant as
16 shall be required. Any person whose usual place of
17 abode shall be in any family on the first day of May,
18 in the said year, shall be enumerated as of such
19 family; and any person temporarily absent, at the
20 time of making the enumeration, shall be enumer-
21 ated as belonging to the family in which he usually
22 resides. The said district commissioners and their
23 assistants shall, in joint meeting assembled, carefully
24 examine, correct, and collate said schedules, so filled
25 out; and they shall, on or before the first day of
26 June, of the said year, deposit them in the office of
27 the town or city clerk of the town or city in which
28 they reside, to be bound and kept for the use of the
29 town or city. Each of the commissioners making
30 the enumeration, shall sign the schedules, and certify
31 that the same are true and accurate according to the
32 best of his knowledge and belief, which certificate
33 shall be subscribed and sworn to before some magis-

34 trate authorized to administer an oath ; and a certifi-
35 cate of such oaths, under the hand of the magistrate
36 administering the same, shall be annexed to said
37 schedules. They shall make an accurate copy of
38 said schedules and enumeration, attested, in like
39 manner, on oath ; and, on or before the fifteenth day
40 of June in said year, return the same to the office of
41 the State commissioners, or deliver it to the sheriff of
42 the county to be by him returned, within said time,
43 to the said State commissioners.

1 SECT. 5. The said State commissioners shall ex-
2 amine said schedules, so filled out and returned to
3 them ; and, after the same shall have been ascer-
4 tained to be complete and correct, they shall file
5 them by counties and towns, in alphabetical order,
6 and, subsequently, cause them to be bound in vol-
7 umes, to be preserved in the archives of the Com-
8 monwealth. They shall, on or before the last day of
9 June in said year, return to the Secretary of State
10 the number of inhabitants of each town and city in
11 the State ; and they shall prepare and publish, at
12 the expense of the State, in such manner as they
13 shall deem proper, an account of their proceedings
14 and of the expenses incurred ; and also full abstracts
15 of the facts and classes of facts ascertained, to show
16 the classes, numbers, sexes, ages, occupations, places
17 of birth, or other characteristics of the population ;
18 and accompany said abstracts with such other facts
19 as may, in their judgment, illustrate the condition of
20 the population, and their means of progress and
21 prosperity.

1 SECT. 6. The State shall allow and pay to the
2 State commissioners a reasonable compensation for
3 their services, and for their necessary travel, to be
4 agreed upon and fixed by the governor and council.
5 The State shall also pay for all blanks, circulars, and
6 other papers used, and for postage, clerk hire, and
7 other necessary expenses actually incurred and paid
8 by said State commissioners in the discharge of their
9 duty; and the governor is hereby authorized to draw
10 his warrant upon the treasury therefor. For making
11 the district enumeration, and for preparing the copy
12 thereof, to be forwarded to the State commissioners,
13 the respective district commissioners and their assist-
14 ants, of the town or city in which they reside, shall
15 be paid by said town or city, such compensation as
16 the selectmen of the town, or the mayor and alder-
17 men of the city, may deem just and proper.

1 SECT. 7. Any town or city which shall wilfully
2 neglect or refuse to provide for the enumeration, and
3 for the return of the same to the State commis-
4 sioners, as herein provided, shall be liable to a pen-
5 alty not exceeding two thousand dollars. Any com-
6 missioner who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to
7 perform any duty imposed upon him by this act,
8 shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five hun-
9 dred dollars; and any commissioner, who shall be
10 guilty of wilful deceit or falsehood, in the discharge
11 of any duty hereby imposed, shall be liable to a pen-
12 alty not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to im-
13 prisonment not exceeding one year. Any sheriff who
14 shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform the duty
15 imposed upon him by this act, shall be liable to a

16 penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars. And
17 any person, being the head of a family, or a member
18 thereof, above the age of twenty-one years, who shall
19 wilfully neglect or refuse to give any commissioner,
20 or assistant commissioner, the necessary information
21 relating to any of the particulars which such com-
22 missioner is required to obtain concerning such family
23 or person, or who shall wilfully give false information
24 to such commissioner concerning the same, shall be
25 liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars, to be
26 sued for and recovered, with costs of suit, for the
27 use of the town or city in which such person may
28 reside.

1 SECT. 8. The said State commissioners are hereby
2 authorized to make an arrangement with the United
3 States, by which the national and State census may be
4 taken at the same time and by the same persons. And
5 said commissioners are also authorized and required to
6 obtain and to furnish to the Secretary of the Interior
7 of the United States, or to such other officer as shall
8 be appointed to receive the same, all the information
9 which shall be required by the laws of said United
10 States concerning the population and statistics of
11 Massachusetts, and to perform such other duties as
12 may be imposed upon the State in relation to said
13 census, provided such an arrangement can be made
14 as aforesaid. And if said arrangement is made and
15 carried into effect, the State treasurer is authorized
16 to receive all money appropriated by the United
17 States in payment for said labor. And when the
18 same is received, it shall be divided by a board con-
19 sisting of the State treasurer, the State auditor, and

20 the Secretary of State, justly and equitably, as far as
21 practicable, between the cities and towns, and the
22 State, in proportion to the amount of labor which
23 each performs in obtaining and furnishing said infor-
24 mation.

2